

**USAID's TUBERCULOSIS PROGRAM**  
**Summary of TB Activities IN USAID'S Infectious Disease Program**  
**APRIL 2000**

The USAID Tuberculosis (TB) program supports TB control and prevention efforts by funding projects that impact countries and regions throughout the world. The Agency works collaboratively with many organizations and institutions. Our partners include the World Health Organization (WHO), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the American Lung Association (ALA), the Royal Dutch Netherlands Association (KNCV), the International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease (IUATLD), the World Bank, the Gorgas Institute for Tropical Medicine and other non-governmental organizations such as Project Hope and the International Federation of the Red Cross.

**USAID's TB activities have been focused on four critical areas:**

- Development of a collaboratively designed global plan and strategy which incorporates the most cost-effective, successful programs for surveillance, diagnosis, and treatment of TB.
- Expansion of country level programs and establishment of model field sites capable of serving as national and regional reference laboratories, providing training of individuals at all levels, and conducting operations research in laboratory, treatment, training, surveillance, and behavioral areas to improve compliance and decrease incidence.
- Accelerated development and implementation of tools to improve diagnostic and treatment options which are appropriate for developing and transitional countries.
- Improved surveillance and modeling techniques, incorporating the emergence of multi-drug resistant strains and the increasing epidemic among those who are co-infected with HIV.

**Specific activities to reach these objectives include:**

- Support for the Stop TB Initiative, a comprehensive global plan and strategy to provide a framework for cooperation/collaboration among high burden countries, technical/community/international organizations, and donors to map the training, research, and advocacy efforts to implement effective TB control programs more rapidly and more widely;
- Strengthening country level capacity to effectively implement the DOTS (Directly-Observed Therapy, Short-course) strategy in targeted areas.

- Strengthening of national and international capacity for global TB surveillance to improve tracking of TB rates and treatment outcomes. These efforts will also attempt to define the impact of DOTS treatment on the transmission of TB, and through the dissemination of accurate information, target areas of greatest need.
- Maintenance and expansion of the global multi-drug resistant TB (MDRTB) surveillance system to determine the magnitude of the problem and monitor drug resistance trends, determine the impact of MDR on TB treatment, and establish interventions to improve control of MDRTB. In addition, the project will help develop national capacities to perform drug resistance surveillance and maintain an international network of supranational reference laboratories for quality control.
- Support for a clinical trials program that will help identify effective treatment regimens with high cure rates, low treatment and administrative costs, few side effects, and good patient compliance, thus minimizing the development of drug resistance.
- Support for the development of low-cost, rapid diagnostics to detect *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* and the development of low-cost methods to screen drug quality and to assess drug susceptibility of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*.
- Support for a global plan and strategy for TB education to inventory available tools and develop educational materials. In addition to creating and providing educational and training materials to providers at all levels and affected communities, management and leadership skills crucial to developing and maintaining a control program will be taught.
- Strengthening of laboratory capabilities through the preparation of guidelines and training materials appropriate to individual countries, hands-on laboratory skills building, and development of quality control programs.
- Building institutional capacity to perform operational research through support of attendance at international courses teaching operational research techniques targeted to institutions in low income countries.

#### **Current Country Programs (as of April 2000):**

##### Africa

South Africa  
Ethiopia  
DR Congo

##### Latin America

El Salvador  
Honduras  
Mexico  
Nicaragua  
Peru

##### Asia/Near East

India  
Philippines

##### Europe/Eurasia

Kazakstan  
Uzbekistan  
Turkmenistan  
Tajikistan  
Russia  
Ukraine